



Return to School 2021/2022 COVID FAQs

Section 1: Masks

1. Are masks mandatory for students while at school?

Yes, at this time, masks are required to be worn by student and staff indoors for all Pre-K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status, based on recommended [CDC guidelines](#).

2. Are masks mandatory for students while on the bus?

At this time masks are required [by the CDC](#) on all public transportation. This will include WCS school buses.

3. Are masks required for athletic competitions?

Based on WCS's current policy, masks will be required to be worn by athletes while indoors, except when actively competing. Athletes competing indoors may remove their mask but must put the mask back on while not engaging in active competition (ex: on the sidelines, in locker rooms, etc.). This expectation will be in place for both home and away competitions while indoors.

4. With the potential for some students wearing masks and others not how will the schools handle potential conflicts over masking?

Any conflicts that take place will be handled individually and student expectations of behavior will follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

5. How can I prevent my child from getting COVID-19?

Several options and mitigation strategies are in place to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Continued mask-wearing to reduce individual risk, as well as to [get vaccinated](#). We will also continue following enhanced cleaning protocols, cleaning and sanitizing areas frequently, and we will have PPE and hand sanitizer available at every building.

Section 2: Testing, Quarantines, and Vaccinations

1. If my child was vaccinated for COVID-19 will they have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19?

No. If your child is fully vaccinated and they are considered a close contact/exposed to someone with COVID-19 they do not have to quarantine. It is recommended that you monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19 after exposure.

2. Where can I get a COVID vaccine for myself or my student?

Vaccination options are available throughout the county. Please visit the [Macomb County Health Department](#) website for a list of vaccination sites.

3. How do we determine whether an individual is fully vaccinated?

A person is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's vaccine.

4. If my child had COVID-19 two months ago would they have to quarantine if they were exposed to someone with COVID-19?

In this event, documentation confirming a previous positive result and a quarantine exemption notice from a health department would be required in order to be exempted from a quarantine situation.

5. What symptoms would require my student to be excluded from school?

For a full list of COVID-19 symptoms that would require your student to be excluded from school, please reference the [MCHD Return to School Parent Toolkit](#).

6. How long is the quarantine period?

Based on [CDC guidelines](#) the quarantine time for an unvaccinated child is currently 10 days from the last contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. A vaccinated child does not need to quarantine, but should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days from contact with a symptomatic individual. The CDC recommends getting tested three to five days after exposure and wearing a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test. We continue to follow the guidance of the MDHHS, CDC, and MCHD and will adjust as new information is released.

7. Is a physician note or negative COVID test required for the child to return to school if they are sent home?

If a child has been symptomatic and tested positive, a physician's note will be required to return to school. If they were quarantined due to a close contact, but remained symptom free, a note is not required to return to school. All students should be symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

8. Does the school have a plan if multiple students/teachers are sent to quarantine in which they would revert to remote? At what point would that determination be made?

The decision to shift to remote instruction will be made on a case-by-case basis. Information that will factor into that decision will include the number of current cases, the number of individuals in quarantine, and the availability of staff.

9. If classrooms or buildings are placed into remote instruction, can the course work completed remotely count it as instructional time?

Yes, if certain criteria are met and based on the availability of staff.

10. How is the homework/loss of school to be made up if my child is quarantined?

Students in quarantine will be provided homework and other materials through Schoology, similar to other illness-related absences so they can still complete assignments. A virtual teacher will not be assigned to quarantined students, unless the whole class and/or building is placed into remote instruction status.

11. What is the Attendance policy for this school year if students are home due to quarantine, getting tested when they have symptoms, or test positive for COVID?

Our absence policy will require for students to be called in with appropriate documentation to receive an excused absence to avoid penalty.

12. If a parent is quarantined from an exposure, but not the child, can the child come to school?

Yes. However, they will be cautioned to monitor symptoms and get tested to help prevent further exposure to their child.

13. If a student is quarantined and obtains a negative COVID test, can I come back to school?

Based on current MCHD guidelines, a negative test result does not shorten the length of the quarantine period.

14. If a parent test positive and my children are sent to another household can they still come to school?

This would depend upon their last date of exposure to the parent. That would be determined during the contact tracing process on a case-by-case basis.

15. If a child test positive and the classroom is quarantined, will they switch to remote instruction or be off for the period of quarantine?

There is a potential for a classroom or building to be placed into remote instruction, depending on the level of cases and the availability of staff. Families would be notified if remote instruction is initiated because of quarantines.

16. Does my child have to get vaccinated to attend in person school?

No, but it is strongly recommended for students that are eligible to receive the vaccine to help prevent the spread of the virus.

17. Will parents be notified of a positive case of COVID-19 in the classroom?

If a child has been in close contact with someone with COVID19, the family will be contacted by either the Pandemic Coordinator or another school official and told they may have been exposed. Quarantine lengths may vary based on a student's vaccination status and date/time of exposure within the school.

18. Is a student able to attend a virtual program while they are required to quarantine?

No, the student would receive homework through Schoology from their classroom teacher. The Virtual Academy is available for families who do not wish to participate in in-person instruction, but students cannot switch back and forth.

19. If my child is on quarantine, can they still participate in afterschool activities (sports, band, etc.)

If your child is on quarantine due to COVID-19 they will not be permitted to attend any WCS events such as sport practice, games, etc.

Section 3: Safety Protocols & Practices

1. How will social distancing be accomplished?

Students will socially distance as much as possible, including having desks in rows three feet apart, when able. However, as we return to traditional class sizes and best teaching practices that involve student interaction, there will be challenges. We will continue to remind students about good hygiene habits like covering their mouths when coughing or sneezing and washing their hands to mitigate the spread of viruses.

2. Will staff and student screening/temperature checks be required each day?

On-site staff and student daily screenings will not be conducted at this time. Parents will be expected to self-monitor the symptoms of their children before sending them to school each day. Should the student be experiencing symptoms, please reference the [MCHD Return to School Parent Toolkit](#) to determine whether the student should report to school. If you are unsure, please contact your school office.

3. Will we have quarantine rooms if a student presents symptoms while at school?

Yes. Students who begin exhibiting symptoms at school will be escorted to quarantine rooms and their parents/caregivers will be contacted to pick them up promptly to mitigate potential exposure to others.

4. What protocols are in place for athletics and after-school programs?

Based on WCS policy, masks will be required to be worn by athletes while indoors, except for while actively competing (ex: masks required on the sidelines, in locker rooms, etc.). The band and athletic programs will follow the MHSAA guidelines and requirements and/or those from the MSBOA.

5. What are the cleaning protocols for playgrounds?

There are currently no specific cleaning protocol requirements that have been issued by the Health Department or Department of Health & Human Services.

6. What ventilation improvements have been made to the WCS buildings? Especially band rooms or gymnasiums where large groups of students are blowing and exhaling while exerting themselves.

WCS is in the process of completing installation of a GPS system. Needlepoint bipolar ionization from GPS is a patented technology that safely cleans the air by introducing ions into the space via airflow in a ventilation system, eliminating particulates, odors, and pathogens. The new units were easily installed in the district's current HVAC system and will also lower the district's carbon footprint, reducing outdoor air intake, as well as reducing energy consumption.

GPS technology reduces the volume of infectious airborne pathogens to make air cleaner and safer to breathe.

The technology deactivates viruses, so they are no longer infectious by disrupting surface proteins, rendering them inactive and unable to replicate.

7. What are the cleaning strategies and mitigation strategies being set into place when students will be in-person full-time this school year?

Buildings will be cleaned using our aggressive protocols, frequent sanitization of high-touch surfaces, Clorox 360 treatments, and a focus on proper hand-washing and hygiene will continue this school year wherever possible. Protective equipment such as masks, hand sanitizer, desk shields, etc. will continue to be available for staff and students.

8. How will lunch and snacks work this year?

Lunch and snacks will follow a model similar to that of pre-pandemic school years. We have added an emphasis on proper hygiene habits and increased hand sanitizer stations to help mitigate the spread of germs.

9. Many 1st graders, 7th graders, and 10th graders will be entering a school for the first time without the benefit of a first-year orientation. Will one be provided?

Yes. Orientation sessions will be offered at these grade levels across the district. Please contact your child's school for more information.

10. If my student starts the school year in-person and then we decide that they would be most safe in a virtual program, can I switch after the start of the school year?

No. If families wish to utilize the Virtual Academy, they will need to contact [Student Services](#) to enroll their student/s by August 25, 2021. However, parents will be permitted to enroll students in the Virtual Academy for the second semester. Dates and timelines for this will be released at a later date.

11. If my child is enrolled in the virtual program, can they participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes! A virtual student may still participate in extracurricular activities at their registered building.